(d) to (f) After announcement of the Guidelines permitting Limited Mobile facility to the Basic Service Operators in 2001, the Cellular Operators had challenged the policy in the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) and the matter was further taken up to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court had remanded the case back to TDSAT. The Government stand was upheld by TDSAT in their majority judgement in August, 2003. The Cellular Operators have appealed against the said TDSAT judgement in the Supreme Court. Further, with the recent announcement of the policy of Unified Access Services Licence, some Cellular Operators and their Association have challenged the policy and have linked the issue with the above said matter in the Supreme Court. Cellular Operators have prayed before the Supreme Court to direct Department of Telecommunications to maintain status-quo throughout India as on the date of the judgement of the TDSAT (8.8.2003) regarding the number and type of Cellular Mobile Licences used separately or included alongwith any other type of licence. As such, the matter is presently subjudice.

However, at the same time, some of the existing Cellular operators, namely M/s Bharti Cellular Limited and M/s Hutchison Essar South Limited have applied for grant of Unified Access Services Licences. As on 30-11-2003, letters of Intent have been issued to M/s Bharti Cellular Limited for grant of the said Licences for 5 Service areas.

Out of Order telephones in Himachal Pradesh

228. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the telephones under Jaisinghpur Exchange in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh remain out of order and no action is taken to set them right in spite of repeated complaints lodged in this regard;

(b) the number of complaints received from January, 2003 to date and the time taken by Government to put these telephones in order; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, telephone services of Jaisinghpur telephone exchange in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh are satisfactory and telephone complaints are attended to promptly.

(b) 3645 complaints were booked from January to 24th November 2003. Barring a few exceptional cases, most of the complaints were attended within 24 Hours.

(c) Jaisinghpur telephone exchange is serving a scattered area which is hilly terrain and lightning prone. Sometimes there is a delay in rectification of telephone faults due to cable breakdowns.

Allotment of PCO booths in Assam

229. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of educated unemployed youth has applied for Gramin PCO booths in North-Eastern Region particularly in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) the details of criteria adopted by Government for allotment of PCO booths among these persons; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of applications received in the North-Eastern Region including Assam during the last three years are as under:-

YEAR	NE Region (including Assam)	Assam
2000-2001	1490	1174
2001-2002	1880	1413
2002-2003	2529	2007

(c) PCO booths are allotted liberally to all the eligible applicants as per their registration subject to technical feasibility.